

## REPORT

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

LOOSE TILES AND CRACKED MARBLE  
REVEAL SHORTCOMINGS OF SOVIET CONSTRUCTION

In 1948, the Central Scientific Research Institute for Industrial Structures and Gorstroyproyekt [Planning Institute for City Construction?] organized the large-scale inspection of flat roofs constructed in Moscow, Kiev, Tbilisi, Leningrad, Riga, Kislovodsk, and Yalta. N. D. Vishnevskiy, an engineer, included the results of the inspection in the report he read to the Scientific and Engineering Conference of civilian and housing construction workers sponsored by the Moscow Committee of the VKP (b) in January 1951.

Vishnevskiy revealed that of the 106 flat roofs examined, 44 were in good condition, 32 were leaking in some places, and 30 were leaking extensively. In other words, 60 percent of all the roofs examined proved to be defective because of their poor design and workmanship. (1)

The past experiences of different construction organizations indicate that the tiles of the exterior and interior finishes of buildings do not stay in place for long and that retiling at an additional expense becomes necessary. The inferior quality of the materials used in mixing the mortar in which the tiles are set, and unskilled workmanship, are given as the main reasons for this deplorable state of affairs.

The exterior surfaces of buildings in Moscow which had been finished with precast concrete blocks in 1938, 1939, and 1940, were inspected in 1949 and 1950. The results of the inspection indicated that a great number of the blocks have either cracked and/or have come off. (2)

The marble used for the interior finish of the Moscow subway stations was found to be cracking and to have lost its color and luster. For instance, the marble interior finish of the Kiyevskaya Station, which was installed 11 years ago, is all being replaced now. Partial replacements are being made at other

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stations of the subway. The cement mortar which fills the space between the marble finish and the concrete surface causes the deterioration of the marble. Long ago, the use of dowels made of stainless steel was recommended for the placement of the marble without mortar to prevent deterioration. However, thousands of square meters of marble finish are still being installed according to the old condemned method.(3)

Industrial and housing construction are considerably retarded because of the shortage of ceramic materials, including toilet fixtures and acid-resisting fixtures. The needs of construction for these materials are only fulfilled from 15 to 25 percent.(4)

## SOURCES

1. Gorodskoye Khozyaystvo Moskvy, No 9, 1951
2. Moscow, Stroitel'naya Promyshlennost', No 9, 1951
3. Vechernyaya Moskva, 14 Sep 51
4. Moscow, Steklo i Keramika, No 8, 1951

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